

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. ATT/2003-0109

REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claims 3, 7, 8, 11, 15, 19 and 20 are canceled without prejudice. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of the remaining claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-20 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Gillespie (U.S. Patent 6,823,048, issued November 23, 2004, hereinafter referred to as "Gillespie"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Gillespie teaches calling name information caching. Gillespie teaches that if information is not found in the local database that the network queries a remote database. (See Gillespie, col. 3, ll. 33-47).

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Gillespie fails to teach or suggest a method, apparatus, system or computer readable medium for acquiring caller-specific information comprising querying a remote database if caller-specific information is not found in a local cache, wherein said querying said remote database is performed by said local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying said call, as positively claimed by the Applicants. For example, Applicants' claims 1, 9, 12 and 13 positively recite:

1. A method for acquiring caller-specific information, said method comprising:
 - receiving a call for completion from a calling party;
 - querying a local cache for caller-specific information associated with said calling party;
 - obtaining said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache;
 - forwarding said caller-specific information to complete said call; and
 - querying a remote database if said caller-specific information is not found in said local cache, wherein said querying said remote database is

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performed by said local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying said call. (Emphasis added).

9. An apparatus for acquiring caller-specific information, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a call for completion from a calling party;

means for querying a local cache for caller-specific information associated with said calling party;

means for obtaining said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache; and

means for forwarding said caller-specific information to complete said call; and

means for querying a remote database if said caller-specific information is not found in said local cache, wherein said means for querying said remote database is performed by said local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying said call. (Emphasis added).

12. A system for acquiring caller-specific information, said system comprising:

a local cache for querying a remote database if caller-specific information is not found in said local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying a call; and

at least one switch for receiving said call for completion from a calling party, wherein said at least one switch queries said local cache for said caller-specific information associated with said calling party, and wherein said at least one switch obtains said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache and forwards said caller-specific information to complete said call. (Emphasis added).

13. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method comprising of:

receiving a call for completion from a calling party;

querying a local cache for caller-specific information associated with said calling party;

obtaining said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache;

forwarding said caller-specific information to complete said call; and

querying a remote database if said caller-specific information is not found in said local cache, wherein said querying said remote database is performed by said local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying said call. (Emphasis added).

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In one embodiment, Applicants' invention discloses a method, apparatus, system or computer readable medium for acquiring caller-specific information comprising querying a remote database if caller-specific information is not found in a local cache, wherein said querying said remote database is performed by said local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying said call. For example, the local cache may query the remote database via a signaling network and not the communication network. (See e.g., Applicants' specification, para. [0021]; FIG. 1).

Gillespie only teaches that if the calling number is not in the local cache that the telecommunication network queries a remote database for calling name information. (See Gillespie, col. 3, ll. 33-47). In other words, the same telecommunication network that carries the call also queries the remote database in Gillespie. In stark contrast, the Applicants' invention teaches querying a remote database if caller-specific information is not found in a local cache, wherein said querying said remote database is performed by said local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying said call. Thus, the Applicants' invention advantageously avoids adding additional traffic and consuming additional bandwidth of the communication network for caller information queries. Moreover, the Applicants' invention avoids over burdening the processing power of switches in the communication network by allowing the local cache to perform the remote database query. This teaching is clearly absent in Gillespie. Thus, Gillespie fails to anticipate the Applicants independent claims 1, 9, 12 and 13.

In addition, dependent claims 2, 4-6, 10, 14 and 16-18 depend from independent claims 1, 9 and 13, respectively, and recite additional limitations. As such, and for the exact same reason set forth above, the Applicants submit that claims 2, 4-6, 10, 14 and 16-18 are also patentable over Gillespie and respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION


Thus, the Applicants submit that all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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